



Celebrate Legally Fireworks Enforcement Campaign

Model Plan for Safe Seizure, Transportation and Storage of Fireworks

This information is for jurisdictions who will be involved in the confiscation, seizure, transport, or storage of fireworks. In addition, information is provided regarding procedures that may be used when local jurisdictions are confronted with illegal explosive devices. This document is a general use guideline. Local ordinances should be considered before implementing this plan. Retail sales of fireworks in stands are required to be licensed by the State Fire Marshal's Office and approved by the local jurisdiction.

OBJECTIVE:

Provide guidance to local jurisdictions in developing a plan for the safe handling of fireworks and illegal explosive devices.

I. Safe Handling of Fireworks

- A. Provide information to agency personnel on how to identify and distinguish between consumer fireworks and illegal explosive devices.
- B. Definitions of fireworks and illegal explosive devices:
 1. Fireworks are governed by RCW 70.77, the State Fireworks Law
 2. Illegal explosive devices are governed by RCW 70.74, The State Explosives Law
- C. Develop a procedure and assign responsibilities for the seizure, transport, and temporary storage of fireworks.
 1. **Initial Response**--Identify which agency will provide the initial response to reports of fireworks.
 - a. Initial response to fireworks and illegal explosive devices is the responsibility of the local law enforcement or fire agency.
 2. **Confiscate**--Identify which agency will seize or confiscate the fireworks.
 - a. For fireworks, either the local law enforcement or fire agency may choose to seize.
 - To seize fireworks—A commissioned officer takes them into possession.
 - To confiscate fireworks—Non-commissioned personnel take them away with the permission from the person possessing the fireworks.
 - b. For Improvised Explosive Devices (I.E.D.s) see item II below.
 3. **Transport**--Identify which agency will transport the fireworks to a storage site. (See item "4" below).
 - a. If the local law enforcement or fire agency chooses to transport fireworks, to ensure employee safety, they must be transported in an approved day box.
 - b. For other Improvised Explosive Devices (I.E.D.s) see item II below.

4. **Storage**--Identify temporary storage locations where seized fireworks could be temporarily stored until transported to an approved magazine.
 - a. Temporary storage of seized fireworks must be in a secured, uninhabited facility. (example: fire or police station storage area).
 - b. Identify and contact local licensed magazine sites to establish an area where fireworks may be stored temporarily.
Note: Contact the Department of Labor and Industries at (360) 902-5569 for assistance in locating magazine sites and storage facilities.
5. **Training**—Train local community responders on the plan. (Fire Officials, Law Enforcement, Public Works, Parks Departments, etc.)

II. Recommended procedures for safe handling of improvised explosive devices.

Suggested by the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries.

A. Procedures for fire agencies:

Due to their volatile nature, extreme caution must be used.

1. Do not attempt to touch or handle.
2. Establish a safe perimeter.
3. Evacuate if necessary.
4. Notify law enforcement or the bomb squad.

A. Any black market manufactured explosive device shall be seized by a law enforcement agency and shall be handled only by a licensed bomb technician per RCW 70.74.400 and WAC 296-52-64005.

B. Contact Labor and Industries, (360) 902-5563, (LEAVE MESSAGE) when Illegal Explosives or Improvised Explosive Devices (I.E.D.s) are discovered.

For questions or information regarding fireworks licensing, please contact the Washington State Patrol, Fire Protection Bureau, Deputy State Fire Marshal Karen Jones at (360) 596-3916, e-mail: karen.jones@wsp.wa.gov.